For The Period July 1, 2008 Through June 30, 2009



CRIT LUALLEN AUDITOR OF PUBLIC ACCOUNTS

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September 14, 2010

Reecie Stagnolia, Vice President Kentucky Adult Education Council on Postsecondary Education 1024 Capital Center Drive, Suite 250 Frankfort, KY 40601

Charles Adams, Superintendent Spencer County Board of Education 207 W. Main Street Taylorsville, KY 40071

Re: Adult Education Grants

Dear Mr. Stagnolia and Mr. Adams:

This report contains the results of the performance audit of Spencer County Board of Education's administration of adult education grants for the fiscal year (FY) ending June 30, 2009. The Council on Postsecondary Education and Kentucky Adult Education contracted with this office to conduct performance audits of selected local adult education programs. This report represents our findings, recommendations, and the program's responses.

The Auditor of Public Accounts conducted this performance audit in accordance with generally accepted government auditing standards. Those standards require that we plan and perform the audit to obtain sufficient, appropriate evidence to provide a reasonable basis for our findings and conclusions based on our audit objectives. We believe that the evidence obtained provides a reasonable basis for our findings and conclusions based on our audit objectives.

We greatly appreciate the courtesies and cooperation extended to our staff during the audit.

Respectfully submitted,

Auditor of Public Accounts

TABLE OF CONTENTS

| | PAGE |
|---|------|
| EXECUTIVE SUMMARY | 1 |
| RESULTS AND RECOMMENDATIONS | 2 |
| FINANCIAL REPORTING AND COMPLIANCE | 2 |
| PARTICIPANT ELIGIBILITY AND RECORD KEEPING | 3 |
| PAYROLL AND STAFF REQUIREMENTS | 5 |
| PURCHASING/EXPENDITURE COMPLIANCE | 5 |
| PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT REIMBURSEMENT COMPLIANCE | E6 |
| INTERNAL CONTROLS RELATING TO GRANT | 6 |

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

PURPOSE AND SCOPE

The Council on Postsecondary Education (CPE) and Kentucky Adult Education (KYAE) selected the Spencer County adult education program for a limited scope performance audit of its adult education grant. The Spencer County Board of Education is responsible for the administration of this grant. An on-site review was conducted on May 19, 2010, to address the following objectives:

- Determine whether the local program's expenditures comply with the terms of their grant agreement and reconcile to invoices submitted.
- Reconcile student and faculty data electronically submitted to KYAE through the Adult Education Reporting Information Network (AERIN).
- Determine whether the local program's professional development activities comply with the FY 2008-2009 professional development policies and procedures.
- Report internal control weaknesses identified during our audit that relate to the audit's objectives.

To accomplish these objectives, the performance audit team reviewed the Policy and Procedure Manual for Kentucky Adult Education, as well as the local program's grant proposal and final agreement with KYAE. During the on-site review, the audit team reviewed the program's accounting records (trial balance/general ledger), interviewed program administrators regarding internal controls related to the above grants, and tested samples of expenditure documentation, participant files, and personnel files for compliance with applicable requirements.

Below is the summary of findings:

FINDINGS SUMMARY

| Finding | Disallowed Costs |
|---|---------------------|
| One participant file did not contain sufficient evidence to support their attendance hours recorded in AERIN. | N/A |

RESULTS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

FINANCIAL REPORTING AND COMPLIANCE

Scope and Methodology

The KYAE-10 Expenditure Reports were compared to the line item budget approved in the final agreement. This comparison was used to determine whether the program's reimbursements complied with the approved budget.

The KYAE-10 Expenditure Reports were then compared to the local program's internally generated financial records. This comparison was used to determine whether the program's accounting records support the total amount requested for reimbursement on the KYAE-10 Expenditure Reports.

Findings

No exceptions were noted.

PARTICIPANT ELIGIBILITY AND RECORD KEEPING

Scope and Methodology

A total of 15 participants were selected randomly from the electronic student data sent from KYAE. Documentation maintained in the participant files was compared to the electronic student data. We examined the files for the following:

- Proper eligibility documentation.
- Proper assessment testing.
- Evidence to support the achievement of goals/objectives reported to KYAE.
- Other requirements based upon the applicable program requirements.

The participants tested received services during the period from July 1, 2008 through June 30, 2009.

Findings

Proper file maintenance and accurate data entry is important to support and document participant data submitted electronically in AERIN. One participant file did not contain sufficient evidence to support their attendance hours recorded in AERIN.

Recommendations

We recommend that attendance hours be accurately recorded in AERIN for all participants. Staff entering participant data should require complete documentation for any data entry performed on a participant and any file deficiencies should be reported to the Program Director.

Program Response – [A draft report was provided to program management to request their comments and any planned corrective actions related the finding. Program management was given a reasonable amount of time to adequately respond to this request.]

The reason there was a difference between the attendance hours reported to the state data collection system and the actual hours that were recorded in the student file is because when the data clerk was entering the student's attendance hours, she accidently hit the wrong number key on her keyboard. The number of hours reported to the state for this student was 136 hours, however when the hours were re-calculated in the student's file they only added up to 131 hours. This was a typing error.

In order to ensure that these type of errors get caught before the data is submitted to the state, the director has implemented a new process for when the data clerk enters the data. Before the data clerk submits the hours to the state she will add up all of the hours again and double check her final number against the final number that she has entered in to the reporting system. If the totals match then she will submit. If the totals don't match, then she will go back through each entry to find the error/discrepancy before she submits the final report. In a sense she will be auditing her own work for each student's attendance hours.

PAYROLL AND STAFF REQUIREMENTS

Scope and Methodology

A sample of payroll disbursements was judgmentally selected for payroll testing. Documentation of hours worked was examined for existence and approval. Personnel files were examined to verify that staff had received the required professional development training hours and had the proper educational credentials required for their position.

Findings

No exceptions were noted.

PURCHASING/EXPENDITURE COMPLIANCE

Scope and Methodology

A sample of 5 expenditures, representing at least 20 percent of the total purchases, was selected judgmentally from the detailed general ledger. These expenditures were tested for authorization/approval, supporting documentation, and proper recording. We also verified that the expenditures were made during the grant period from July 1, 2008 through June 30, 2009.

Findings

No exceptions were noted.

PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT REIMBURSEMENT COMPLIANCE

Scope and Methodology

Professional development expenditures were tested for proper authorization, supporting documentation, and adherence to approved rates and reimbursement policies. A sample of 2 expenditures, representing at least 20 percent of the total professional development expenditures, was selected judgmentally from the detailed general ledger.

Findings

No exceptions were noted.

INTERNAL CONTROLS RELATING TO GRANT

Scope and Methodology

Spencer County Board of Education's Program Director was given an Internal Control Questionnaire regarding the controls in place for expenditures, bank reconciliations, revenue, and payroll. The questionnaire was completed by the program director and/or the fiscal administrator and reviewed by the audit team for any significant control deficiencies.

Findings

No significant control deficiencies were noted.